

Lines Inspired by a Book on Physiognomy  
Donated by a Dead Man to His Church

& which I swiped  
so compelled was I to save myself  
from faces -- "As a man  
thinketh, so is his face."

Let's face it, a full upper lip  
with the rim drawn down  
& a thin lower lip  
hanging loose on the side  
are the unmistakable signs  
of uncontrolled passion & temper & proof  
is Plate 38, Figure 1 --  
an out-of-whack crack  
that might (it's so bad)  
be an ass with a sag, on its side.

Please turn to wit or repartee  
(Figure 3) & see the balls  
of the cheek: prominent, inclined to dimple  
they ride rather easy  
on bright red lips -- no problem  
with wit, it's optimistic!

But keep an eye on discontent across the page:  
the mouth on either side is high & low  
(the upper lip's a puffy little piece  
that sneers a "backward roll") -- known, also,  
as sarcasm & disgust! Figure 4  
gives all of this.

As for eyes, does the liar  
or the wanton mistress fix you  
with an open look? Hell no!  
Why? Because the liar's eyes slant upward  
from the nose, under brows (Figure 2)  
that also slant. And if the upper lid  
is fat & hides  
the eyeball -- duck! That's a fox  
you're talking to.

Now check  
your chick. Chances are she's cheating  
if her eyes are beady  
black or sickly blue. But brown's OK --  
unless the lower rims are red. I guess  
in general, shy away from eyes  
that don't look like your mother's  
or your favorite movie star's.

The sign of purity & circumspection  
(also modesty & discretion)  
is where the mouth is full  
but balanced, & the lips give  
"the appearance of mild compression  
in the center only." Beware of lips that stick  
slightly forward, though -- these incline to lean  
to tendencies (animal).

Example: in the mouth  
that's sensual, the lower part  
protrudes, the teeth arch  
up & out (see the gums?),  
the lips look loose & swollen &  
there is no (or little) bone  
formation showing in the chin. Since beasts  
lack decent chin formation,  
picture here a mouth that's eating  
red raw meat for dinner. (Women  
are suspicious if there's dark  
down below their noses.) Needless to say,  
you will find discretion in  
a mouth supported  
by a bony chin

-- & happiness  
with leanless lips, eyes that fix,  
& cheeks with optimistic balls!

-- Gary Gildner

Des Moines, Iowa

### A Blood

A Blood is someone  
    who will stay by your side,  
        no matter what

He don't leave you hanging  
He's always there when the shit go down.  
A Blood is true,  
    real cool,  
    and definitely together.